




Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever
Badge 1417  Badge 2806

June 2007

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Events of Interest for the Month

- ☞ June 8-10— Fairfax County Fair
- ☞ June 14—Flag Day
- ☞ June 17—Father's Day
- ☞ June 18—Last Day of School in Fairfax County
- ☞ June 21—Summer Begins

In Honor Of Service



MPO Vincent DarConte
1960-2007

Master Police Officer Vincent “Vinnie” Darconte, 47, died Saturday, May 26, 2007, from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle crash one week earlier in Prince William County. He was driving into work early Saturday morning, May 19, 2007, when he encountered deer on the roadway and lost control of his motorcycle. MPO Darconte was medevaced to Inova Fairfax Hospital where he died one week later.

Colonel Dave Rohrer, Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department, described MPO Darconte as “a highly respected, long-time member of our police family. We are saddened by his loss and offer our deepest sympathies and continued support to the family and friends who loved him.”

Officer Darconte was a 17-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department. He served in the Reston and McLean District Stations prior to his most recent assignment to the Sully District Station where he was one of two crime prevention officers. In that assignment, MPO Darconte was in constant communication with citizens, assisting them with home and personal safety, Neighborhood Watch programs and crime affecting their communities. He was particularly passionate about ensuring parents had the proper safety seats and that the seats were properly installed to protect infants and children.

MPO Darconte was born in New York City and moved from New York to join the Fairfax County Police Department. His family has a very long and distinguished record of public safety service on both police and fire services. Anyone who knew Vinnie Darconte knew his first love and top priority were his wife, Donna and their 12-year-old son, Matthew. Father and son were heavily involved in scouting for several years.

In addition to his wife and son, MPO Darconte is survived by his parents and his in-law. Contributions can be made to the Law Enforcement Relief Fund, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, VA 22030.

PFC Brad Wrobel Awarded Officer of the Quarter



PFC Brad Wrobel was awarded *Officer of the Quarter* by the Sully District's Citizens' Advisory Committee. PFC Wrobel has been consistently dedicated to the safety and security of the students and staff at Centreville High School.

Brad has investigated several cases at the school seeking as much information as possible maintaining a high level of thoroughness all the while maintaining the integrity of his investigation while keeping school administrators informed. In one such case, Brad investigated a drug possession incident and executed a search warrant that yielded evidence. This evidence enhanced the case allowing PFC Wrobel to make arrests.

Brad has developed great relationships with the student body and school staff. His knowledge of the students that attend Centreville High School is truly remarkable. This knowledge was instrumental when Brad assisted detectives solve a robbery by recognizing a suspect who had a unique first name as a member of his school.

The principal and staff constantly praise Brad and the fact that they feel fortunate to have him at their school. Brad is a true asset to the staff of Centreville High School providing safety, security, guidance and perhaps more importantly a genuine professional friendship to the school's student body.

Brad's work and his reputation speak for itself. We commend Brad's exceptional efforts and contributions to making our community a safer place for the students and residents.



Start Planning National Night Out 2007!

National Night out is Tuesday, August 7 this year. What is National Night Out and how can you participate?

NNO is designed to:

- * Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- * Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- * Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- * Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, neighborhoods celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events and activities such as:

- * block parties;
- * cookouts;
- * visits from local police and sheriff departments;
- * parades, exhibits;
- * flashlight walks;
- * contests; and,
- * youth programs.

Communities in the Sully District that will be participating in National Night Out this year are asked to contact PFC Mary Hulse to coordinate visits from the Sully District Police Officers at your events. Contact PFC Mary Hulse at Mary.Hulse@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Join communities around the nation on Tuesday, August 7 to show your support in the fight against crime!





WHEN YOUR TEENS DRINK,
THEIR CARS DRINK WITH THEM.

IF YOU'RE HOSTING A PARTY FOR YOUR TEENS
THIS SUMMER, KEEP IT ALCOHOL FREE.

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST.®

© Parents Who Host, Lose The Most is a program of Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth, with funding from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



KNOW THE RULES...

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS for parents and guardians

1. Be sure to go over the rules with your children about whose homes they may visit when you're not there and discuss the boundaries of where they may and may not go in the neighborhood.
2. Make sure children know their full names, address, and telephone numbers and how to use the telephone. Be sure they know what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you using cellular or pager numbers. Children should have a neighbor or trusted adult they may call if they're scared or there's an emergency.
3. Caution children to keep the door locked and not to open the door or talk to **anyone** who comes to the door when they are home alone. If you have arranged for a family friend or relative to stop by, make sure your children feel comfortable being alone with that person. Make certain they understand not to tell anyone who calls they are home alone.
4. Don't drop your children off at malls, movies, video arcades, or parks. These are not safe places for children to be alone. Make certain a responsible adult supervises your younger children at all times when they are outside and away from home.
5. Teach your children in whose vehicle they may ride. Children should be cautioned to never approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult.
6. Make sure your children know to stay away from pools, canals, or other bodies of water without adult supervision.
7. Since daylight lasts longer during the summer months, be sure your children know their curfew and to check in with you if they are going to be late. If you allow your children to play outside after dark, make sure they wear reflective clothing and stay close to home.
8. Choose babysitters with care. Obtain references from family, friends, and neighbors. Many states now have registries for public access to check criminal history or sex-offender status. Observe the babysitter's interaction with your children, and ask your children how they feel about the babysitter.
9. Check out camp and other summer programs before enrolling your children. See if a background screening check is completed on the individuals working with the children. Make sure there will be adult supervision of your children at all times, and make sure you are made aware of all activities and field trips offered by the camp or program.
10. Investigate daycare settings thoroughly before placing your children. Make certain the center or family-daycare home is licensed; completes full background screening for **all** employees at, volunteers of, and others affiliated with the facility; and allows parents and guardians to freely come and go as they wish. Observe the personnel and activities several times before making your decision and visit unannounced after placement.
11. Be sure all custody documents are in order and certified copies are available in case your children are not returned from a scheduled summer visit.
12. Always listen to your children and keep the lines of communication open. Your children are your best source for determining if everything is okay. Teach your children to get out of dangerous or uncomfortable situations right away and practice basic safety skills with them. Make sure they know they are able to tell you about anything that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.



1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678)
www.missingkids.com



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Have a safe and fun summer!



Hurricane Season Starts June 1

DEFINING A HURRICANE

Hurricanes. There are no other storms like hurricanes on earth. Views of hurricanes from satellites located thousands of miles above the earth show how unique these powerful, tightly coiled weather systems are.

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone-the general term for all circulating weather systems (counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere) over tropical waters. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

1. **Tropical Depression** - An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.
2. **Tropical Storm** - An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).
3. **Hurricane** - An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. In the western Pacific, hurricanes are called "typhoons," and similar storms in the Indian Ocean are called "cyclones."

Hurricanes are products of the tropical ocean and atmosphere. Powered by heat from the sea, they are steered by the easterly trade winds and the temperate westerly winds as well as by their own ferocious energy. Around their core, winds grow with great velocity, generating violent seas. Moving ashore, they sweep the ocean inward while spawning tornadoes and producing torrential rains and floods. Each year on average, ten tropical storms (of which six become hurricanes) develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico. Many of these remain over the ocean. However, about five hurricanes strike the United States coastline every 3 years. Of these five, two will be major hurricanes (category 3 or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale).

How does the damage from tornadoes compare to that of hurricanes? The differences are in scale. Even though winds from the strongest tornadoes far exceed that from the strongest hurricanes, hurricanes typically cause much more damage individually and over a season, and over far bigger areas. Economically, tornadoes cause about a tenth as much damage per year, on average, as hurricanes. Hurricanes tend to cause much more overall destruction than tornadoes because of their much larger size, longer duration and their greater variety of ways to damage property. The destructive core in hurricanes can be tens of miles across, last many hours and damage structures through storm surge and rainfall-caused flooding, as well as from wind. Tornadoes, in contrast, tend to be a few hundred yards in diameter, last for minutes and primarily cause damage from their extreme winds.

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for the child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

Next available dates: Tuesday, June 5, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 14, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 19, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 28, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.



Traffic Trivia



Code of Virginia § 46.2-923. How and where pedestrians to cross highways.

When crossing highways, pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles. They shall cross, wherever possible, only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Where intersections contain no marked crosswalks, pedestrians shall not be guilty of negligence as a matter of law for crossing at any such intersection or between intersections when crossing by the most direct route.

The governing body of any town or city or the governing body of a county authorized by law to regulate traffic may by ordinance permit pedestrians to cross an intersection diagonally when all traffic entering the intersection has been halted by lights, other traffic control devices, or by a law-enforcement officer.

(Code 1950, § 46-243; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-230; 1966, c. 706; 1976, c. 322; 1981, c. 163; 1989, c. 727.)

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) will be on break until September.

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/homepage.htm

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaamberalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime
Solvers :**
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:**
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime
Prevention Office:**
703-814-7018

**Child Car Seat
Installation:**
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

**Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)**
703-464-4756

New Memorials Dedicated at the Sully District Police Station

On May 8, the Sully District Police Station held a private ceremony in which flower gardens were dedicated in memory of Detective Vicky Armel and Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino. The flower gardens are located in the back secured lot of the police station amongst the police cruisers. The two gardens mark the spots in which both Mike and Vicky were shot on May 8, 2006. Since the gardens are in a secured area, public viewing of them is difficult. I wanted to take this opportunity to share pictures of the gardens with you, our community, who has supported the Armel and Garbarino families and Sully officers over this past year.



Special thanks go out to the following people and businesses who made the memorials possible:

Rick Burroughs and Kline Memorials in Manassas, Leslie Lewis and Heritage Landscape Services, General Shale Brick, Virginia Concrete, Luck Stone Corporation, Capital Rentals and Master Police Officer Jack Tuller.